

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-13 and 16-18 are pending in the current application. By this Amendment, claims 5, 14, 15 and 19 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-3 are amended. As the claims are amended to recite allowable subject matter, no new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 13-15 and 19 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. As independent claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 5, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Objections:

Claims 2 and 3 are objected to due to informalities. Specifically, claims 2 and 3 are objected to for antecedent basis issues. As the claims are amended to correct the antecedent basis issues, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,837,950 to Horikawa in view of US 3,474,206 to Gryctko. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Thus, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in the rejected claims.

For the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of the pending claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Fitzpatrick at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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